

PATENT
Serial No. 10/523,666
Amendment in Reply to Final Office Action mailed on November 20, 2006

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Final Office Action mailed November 20, 2006, which has been reviewed and carefully considered. Entry of the present amendment and allowance of the present application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

By means of the present amendment, the current Abstract has been deleted and substituted with the enclosed New Abstract which better conforms to U.S. practice. Further, the specification has been amended to correct certain informalities.

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 11 and 13-17 are allowed and that claims 2-3 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication that claims 11 and 13-17 are allowed, and that claims 2-3 contain allowable subject matter. By means of the present amendment, claims 2 has been canceled without prejudice, and independent claim 1 has been amended to include the features of allowable claim 2. Further, new claim 18 includes features similar to allowed claim 11.

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Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that independent claims 1 and 18 be allowed. In addition, claims 3-10 should be allowable at least based on their dependence from independent claim 1. Further, it is believed that new claims 19-24 are also allowable and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

In addition, Applicants deny any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicants reserve the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

It is believed that no additional fees or charges are currently due beyond the fee for the Request for Continued Examination (RCE), the fee for two additional independent claims in excess of three, and the fee for two claims in excess of twenty (since the total number of claims is 22, not 24, in view of canceled claims 2 and 12). However, in the event that any additional fees or charges are required for entrance of the

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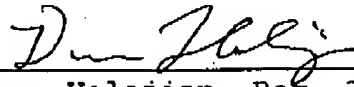
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accompanying amendment, they may be charged to Applicants' representatives Deposit Account No. 50-3649. In addition, please credit any overpayments related to any fees paid in connection with the accompanying amendment to Deposit Account No. 50-3649.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Dicran Halajian, Reg. 39,703
Attorney for Applicant(s)
April 16, 2007

Enclosure: New Abstract
RCE Transmittal
Authorization to charge credit card \$1290 that
includes \$790 for RCE fee, \$400 for two additional
independent claims in excess of three, and \$100 two
claims in excess of twenty

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